

September 25, 2020

DISSEMINATION BY THE LIVINGSTON GROUP, LLC

FARA registration #6344

The Livingston Group (TLG) represents the San Francisco Zion Church (Church), an independent US church that is associated with the Shincheonji Church of Jesus, a Christian denomination founded in South Korea in 1984.

On behalf of the Church, we are working to raise awareness of and encourage dialogue on Shincheonji in the United States, and their treatment during COVID-19 as a religious minority and as predominately Asian-Americans.

As a new and growing denomination, Shincheonji has become prey to misrepresentation and discrimination by mainstream churches and the secular media globally. Church members are subject to hate speech, organized propaganda, forcible deprogramming, and extreme violence. With the outbreak of COVID-19, persecution of the Shincheonji is intensifying, and is critically impacting US citizens that are members of associated churches.

Early on, the Shincheonji experienced an outbreak of COVID-19 among its members in Deagu, South Korea, and were subsequently unduly blamed for spreading the virus. In the US, members of associated churches have faced both anti-religious and anti-Asian sentiment and discrimination for their affiliation with Shincheonji.

The United States works to protect religious liberty and to defend people of faith around the world. Amidst COVID-19, the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has condemned the stigmatization of religious minorities around the world, including the Shincheonji.

THE LIVINGSTON GROUP PROVIDES REPRESENTATION FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO ZION CHURCH, A CHURCH ASSOCIATED WITH THE SHINCHEONJI CHURCH OF JESUS. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, WASHINGTON, DC.